

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01119 250504Z

14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10 CIAE-00

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 771

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, EG

SUBJECT: PEKING RED CARPET TREATMENT FOR EGYPTIAN
VICE PRESIDENT

1. PRC HANDLING OF EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT HUSSEIN EL SHAFEI'S VISIT TO PEKING THUS FAR VERY NEARLY MATCHED RECEPTION FOR FRENCH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU AND IS STRIKING EXAMPLE OF IMPORTANCE PRC ATTACHES TO CAIRO'S KEY POSITION AT CENTER OF BIG POWER CONFLICT IN MIDDLE EAST. SHAFEI ARRIVED IN PEKING FROM PYONGYANG SEPTEMBER 21 AND WAS GREETED AT PLANESIDE BY VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING (WHOSE MEETING AND GREETING ROLE RECENTLY JUST ABOUT QUALIFIES HIM AS PEKING'S GROVER WHALEN) AND THE USUAL TURNOUT OF SINGING AND DANCING CHILDREN PLUS ROWS OF BANNERS AND FLAGS EXTENDING FROM TIEN AN MEN TO TUNG TAN STREET, THE SAME AS FOR POMPIDOU.

2. CHOU EN-LAI HAS HELD SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH SHAFEI AND ON SEPTEMBER 21 HOSTED BANQUET IN HIS HONOR AT
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PAGE 02 PEKING 01119 250504Z

GREAT HALL OF PEOPLE WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY BUSLOADS OF

PEOPLE, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF MOSLEMS. SHAFEI HOSTED RETURN BANQUET FOLLOWING NIGHT. FRONT PAGE OF SEPTEMBER 24 PEOPLE'S DAILY IS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO SHAFEI VISIT AND TO HIS MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN MAO, AN HONOR WHICH WE WOULD NOT HAVE NECESSARYEXPECTED FOR A VICE PRESIDENT. MAO, ACCOMPANIED BY CHOU EN-LAI AND NEW PRC NUMBER THREE MAN, WANG HUNG-WEN, MET AT MAO'S RESIDENCE FOR TWO HOURS.

3. AT SEPTEMBER 21 BANQUET, CHOU AGAIN RETURNED TO ANTI-HEGEMONISM THEME FEATURED PROMINETLY IN RECENT PRC STATEMENTS. HE NOTED THAT "THE SUPERPOWERS PERSIST IN MAINTAINING THE STATE OF 'NOWAR, NO PEACE' IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO THE GREAT DETRIMENT OF THE EGYPTIAN, PALESTINIAN AND OTHER ARAB PEOPLES."

4. GIVEN PEKING'S CURRENT PREOCCUPATIONS, SCOPE OF SHAFEI'S WHIRLWIND VISIT MUST HAVE PUT QUITE A STRAIN ON PRC LEADERSHIP AND UNDERSCORES IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACHED TO IT. VISIT UNDENIABLY TAXED MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, SEVERAL OF WHOM HAVE COMPLAINED THAT BETWEEN AIRPORT ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES, BANQUETS AND RETURN BANQUETS, THEY ARE ABOUT EXHAUSTED.
BRUCE

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